

What is claimed is:

1. A microkeratome comprising:

- a) a positioning ring to hold an eye;
- b) a cutting head assembly structured to move across said positioning ring in an arcuate path;
- c) a guide assembly structured to guide movement of said cutting head assembly;
- d) a cutting blade assembly structured to be operatively disposed with said cutting head assembly and to oscillate therein;
- e) said cutting blade assembly including a cutting blade and a blade holder secured with one another, said cutting blade including a forward cutting edge to cut the eye and at least one partially tapered side edge; and
- f) a drive assembly structured to oscillate said cutting blade assembly.